

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

*A Word from our
Leadership -* 2
Col. Smith

*3rd Brigade Takes
Charge in the* 3
Eastern Zone

*2nd Brigade
Conducts HA* 4
*Mission in the
Panjsher Valley*

VICTORY is in a 4
Job Well Done

1st Brigade Surge 6
*Operation in
Wardak Province*

1st Brigade 7
Returns to Kapisa

THE AFGHANISTAN NATIONAL CIVIL ORDER POLICE

*Story and Photo By Lt. Col. John Leask
Team Chief
1st Bde ANCOP Advisors*

“THE NEW UNTOUCHABLES”

DARULAMAN, Afghanistan - Among the hopeful Afghanistan security forces, there is a success story that is steadily gaining more admirers. That is the Afghanistan National Civil Order Police, or ANCOP.

This force is arguably the best example of the emerging capabilities of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan that we have seen to date. They are rapid responders to civil unrest, urban disorder, and national emergencies. It is the first multi-ethnic national police unit in the country.

The ANCOP is fielded in two separate and distinct units; the Patrol and the Urban. The Patrol units are at their best when patrolling in the countryside, much like a sheriff patrol. The Urban units are geared for the city and they are very much like the Special Weapons Assault Teams, or SWAT, that many of us are familiar with.

All of the ANCOP officers and sergeants are put through a rigorous screening before joining the unit. Only the best are allowed in. The starting pay grade is sergeant. This alone would seem to be enough to keep the quality of the unit members much higher than the average police department.

In addition to the increased responsibility, the ANCOP are exposed to sev-

eral months of training, which includes four months of basic police training and two months of more advanced tactics and techniques. The rigorous training program that they undergo includes classes in Patrolling, SWAT, Riot Control, Close Combat Operations and Tactics. Training in Ethics and the Rule of Law round out a skill set that is hard to beat in some of the advanced programs in western countries.

It appears as though the police understand the rule of law and ethics. One man was recently pulled over by the ANCOP. He allegedly said that it was the first time that he has been pulled over by the police and never had to pay them money. Many are optimistic that these are the first true “untouchables” in Afghanistan.

Story Continued on Page 3



The Afghan National Civil Order Police practice their 9mm marksmanship skills at a range near Darulaman.

A Word from the Leadership—

Col. Philip Smith...

The Marine's Birthday celebration is a day for and about Marines.

A celebration means to have a good time, a party, to enjoy the company of good friends, to talk about the good ole days and recall how good it was to be in the Old Corps; to express our exasperation at how the New Corps of Marines just doesn't seem to measure up to the standards....

Regardless of where we are, or what we are doing, in combat, in garrison, Marines will stop and gather on this day to celebrate those who have gone before, those Marines from whom we hope to obtain a glimpse of where we want to go and who we want to be, to receive encouragement from the sacrifice and contributions of our buddies.

As you may have heard from Gen. Lejeune, in his letter that we read every year, it's a time to recall the successes of our Corps and of the individual Marines, from our lowly beginnings in a bar in Philadelphia, to the battlefields of today.

We make a big deal of this day in order to convince our fellow servicemen that the nations corps of Marines are the first to fight, and impress our first to fight reputation upon them.

We are hooked on the traditions that establish the contributions of Marines and Sailors in combat...whether its from Tuns Tavern; to the Halls of Montezuma; to the shores of Tripoli...from the Boxer Rebellion; to the streets of Shanghai; to the fields of Belleau Wood; to the humid islands of the Pacific where a drunk Marine Major predicted how the Japanese would defend the islands that eventually gave way to the Amphibious techniques of the island hopping campaign; to the sticky mud

and jungle of Guadalcanal; from the beaches and lava of Iwo Jima and Betio; to the dark caverns of Bataan and Corregidor; from the seawall at Inchon to the Icy Frozen Chosin reservoir; or from the up close and personal urban fight at Hue City; to the mud at Khe San; from the underground bunkers at the Beirut airport; to the isle of Spice of Grenada; to the hot desert of Kuwait and Iraq; to the Hindu Kush mountains of Afghanistan...we reflect and marvel at the uncommon tenacious fighting spirit of our fellow Marine.

We make a big deal of this day because we understand that in order for a family to survive it must fight; it must establish camaraderie and an esprit d'corps that acts as a touchstone upon which we can anchor our fundamental belief that freedom is worth fighting for and if need be dying for.

Marines, this day is your day because you never walk away from a fight, because you don't accept no for an answer, because you refuse to let your Afghan friends think that we will abandon them on their battlefield, and because we readily accept the reputation of being the best fighting organization in the world. You are therefore permitted to selfishly, and unashamedly focus your thoughts this day, on yourselves, on who we are, on what we are, so that in some small measure, we can live up to those expectations and standards of excellence established by the combat reputation of Marines who are represented at the tables behind you.

For Those Marines who are no longer with us, and those Marines who are in other battlefields separated from family, friends and loved ones, this day is an opportunity for you, Marine, to carry your battle colors forward.

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Editor-in-Chief - Major Samuel House - Public Affairs Officer

201st RSAC-C

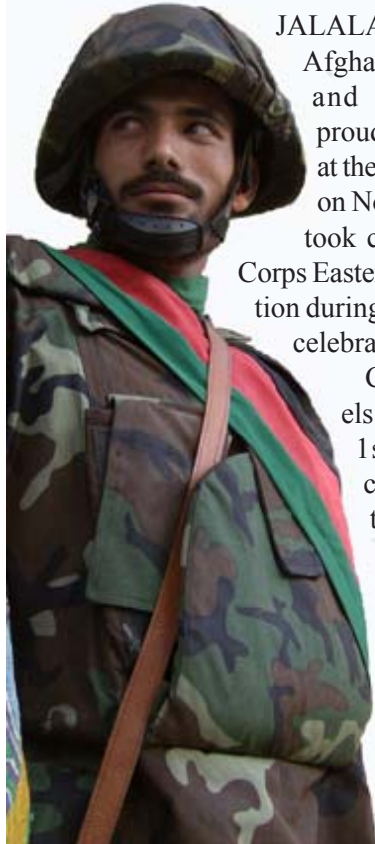
Commanding Officer - Colonel Philip Smith

Deputy Commander - Commander Thomas Turner

Sergeant Major - Sergeant Major Stacy Lehfeldt

3rd Brigade Takes Charge in the Eastern Zone

Story and Photo by Maj. Samuel House
201st RSAC-C, Public Affairs Officer



JALALABAD, Afghanistan— Afghan Soldiers from the 1st and 3rd Brigades stood proudly on the parade field at the Jalalabad headquarters on Nov. 4 as the 3rd Brigade took command of the 201st Corps Eastern Zone Area of Operation during a transfer of authority celebration.

Commanders at all levels praised the efforts of 1st Brigade and welcomed 3rd Brigade to the fight.

“I am very happy as a result of the mission of the 1st Brigade activities,” Brig. Gen. Rahim Wardak said, “1st Brigade conducted 255 patrols, participated in the reconstruction of roads

and the construction of schools, in addition to recovering 12 improvised explosive devices.”

“The 1st Brigade ran the operation in coordination with coalition forces, Afghan National Police and the Provincial Reconstruction Team,” Wardak said. “I am very happy to participate in this ceremony to transfer the authority from 1st Brigade to 3rd Brigade in hopes of continued success.”

Brig. Gen. Zamari, 3rd Brigade commander said that he too was pleased with the cooperation of the coalition forces and looked forward to the challenges in the Eastern Zone.

“I intend to provide security for the area of operation that belongs to us. My goal is to eliminate the cultivation of opium and narcotics smuggling in this area,” Zamari said.

“I will be at the service of my people and I am willing to pour my blood on our homeland if it becomes necessary in order to provide security in the Eastern Zone,” Zamari said.

During the ceremony the Chief of Staff for the Afghan National Army, Gen. Besmullah Khan said that he was very pleased about the reports of the 1st Brigade’s achievements.

“The 1st Brigade has spent the last 6 months in the Eastern Zone and was very active against the enemy. It made me very happy to hear that the Afghan National Army has joined in the reconstruction of the country by building schools,” Khan said.

“The Taliban is not only our Afghan enemy, they are the enemy all over the world, and we call it international terrorism. We must eliminate these people from Afghanistan. We are soldiers, and I wish the Taliban would kill us, but instead they kill the innocent children. They are a bad phenomenon,” Khan said.

“I trust that the 3rd Brigade leaders will take care of their units in the Eastern Zone and stay alert to the enemy,” he said.

The 201st Eastern Zone consists of four provinces: Nangahar, Nuristan, Kunar and Laghman.

The Afghan National Civil Order Police (Cont.)

By the end of 2008, the Ministry of Interior has set the goal of 5,000 ANCP to be placed around the country. Urban Battalions will be assigned to the more densely populated areas, while the Patrol Battalions are assigned to the larger provinces. In some cases, these two units may work right along side of each other. Due to their modularity and mobility, it would not be unusual to see them quickly arrive in places around the country where they may be needed in order to conduct security operations or holding actions.

The first units have only been operational for a short time. But some of the high profile operations that they have been in on include the Peace Jirga, kidnappings, policing the unlicensed security firms, and the funeral for the King Mohammad Zahir Shah.

As more new ANCP units are fielded, there is certainly going to be more written about these new “Untouchables”.

2nd Brigade, Conducts Humanitarian Aid Mission in Panjsher Valley

*Story and Photos By
IS1(SCW) Robin Whitley
2nd Bde 201st Corps*

PANJSHER VALLEY, Afghanistan - On Nov. 14, eight Embedded Training Team (ETT) Members and 40 Afghan National Army (ANA) officers, NCO's, and soldiers from 2nd Brigade, 201st ANA Corps conducted a humanitarian aid mission in Panjsher Valley, Afghanistan.

Prior to traveling to Panjsher Valley, the 2nd Brigade Religious Officer with 30 ANA soldiers, and Capt. Randall Collette, the 2nd Brigade Training advisor, spent six-hours packing six 7-ton cargo trucks with thousands of pounds of humanitarian aid items.

Afghan National Army officers, NCO's, and soldiers distributed coal, heater stoves, rice,

beans, sugar, salt, coats, cooking oil, clothing, and boots to more than 1,000 families in three villages in the Panjsher Valley.

The Panjsher visit was the first humanitarian aid mission for Maj. Sabina Garrett, a 2nd Brigade advisor.

"The ANA soldiers put their hearts in giving to the families of Panjsher," Garrett said. "Their faces were covered with flour



An Afghan National Army Soldier hands off Winter Supplies to families in the Panjsher Valley on Nov. 14.

and smiles as they passed out hundreds of bags of flour to children and elderly alike."

The mission was significant to several members of the 2nd Brigade who are from the Panjsher Valley. They were pleased to see people from their community receive critical assistance that will aid families during the winter months, when two to three meters of snow will remain on

the ground and temperatures drop dramatically.

The Panjsher visit was also significant for Capt. Quintin Doll, who will be redeploying in December. This was his first visit to Panjsher Valley and the last humanitarian aid mission.

"Panjsher is very beautiful and it was great to be able to assist so many people in the region," Doll said.

"VICTORY" is in a Job Well Done

*Story and Photos By
Master Sgt. Beth Keen
2nd Bde 201st Corps
S-4 Mentor*

POLECHARKI, Afghanistan - As the mission picks up for the 2nd Brigade with the addition of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Kandaks and the kick off of the "60-day training plan", Lt. Col. Mark Worley has to say good-bye to two of his finest Embedded Training Team (ETT) advisors as they complete their tours and head home.

The Afghan National Army (ANA) look to the advisors for support and knowledge in areas such as tactical and technical guidance in coordination and supervision of the activities of personnel and equipment to support their wartime mission requirements. The advisors also assist in the development of policies and procedures for non-commissioned officer development, which facilitates promotions and training standards that make up the foundation of the ANA.

The advisors drill down and focus on the primary missions and responsibilities of personnel, intelligence, operations, supply, humanitarian aid and communication efforts, along with medical advisement and focus. As we coach, teach and advise our Afghan counterparts, they build trust in each other and Coalition Forces, gain knowledge and a thirst to lead their Army into victory and win back their country for their fellow countrymen.

Master Sgt. Ronnie Dawkins has served as the ETT senior staff NCO, Command Sergeant Major, Brigade Surgeon, and Medical Company Commander advisor for the 2nd Brigade, 201st Corps and Combat Service Support (CSS) Kandak.

During his tenure, he assisted the ANA Operations NCO develop Kandak procedures and forces to support numerous security, humanitarian assistance, and combat

service support missions.

As the advisor to the medical company commander they provided training to the CSS Kandak physician assistants and pharmacist. Successful coordination led to the fielding of over \$300,000 worth of medical equipment, ultimately providing the treatment for over 2,326 local Afghans.

*"This is one
small step
towards Afghan
Army
independence."*

Capt. Quintin Doll



Afghan National Army Soldiers receive medical training from the 2nd Brigade Medical Officer.

The last year has been highly successful for the medical company which has treated over 720 local nationals in Kabul City, 900 local nationals in Qabelbay and 700 local nationals in the Sheena Village Province, an unthinkable task just less than four-years ago.

When asked what he enjoyed the most about his tour in Afghanistan, Dawkins said, "Getting to know, understand and value the culture and sacrifice of the Afghan National Army and the citizens that support their democracy and a better way of life."

Capt. Quintin Doll worked directly with his ANA counterpart Capt. Noragah, the brigade technical officer, when he first arrived. He assisted Noragah with vehicle accountability and in-house maintenance, along with building a strong team concept between the Brigade Technical Officer, the CSS Kandak Maintenance Officer, and all of the company executive offic-

ers in order to accomplish effective readiness operations.

"We have made progress in getting the ANA to think ahead and order parts and POL for services," Doll said.

Currently Doll advises Lt. Col. Dadgul, the 2nd Brigade Logistics officer. One of their largest hurdles to tackle was the ANA supply system and ordering processes. Doll and Dadgul worked hand-in-hand to resolve this issue by walking requests through the appropriate agencies.

"In the beginning ETTs took the lead; however," Doll said, "in time the ANA were able to order, track and pick up their own equipment. This is one accomplishment I am especially proud of."

"Now the ANA have faith in their supply system and are more willing to use it. This is one small step towards Afghan Army independence," Doll said.

The ANA have also done much

to enhance the supply system within the Brigade. The CSS warehouse, which is run by ANA 1st Lt. Stanagul, is the supply focal point of the entire brigade, and is now effectively stocked with supplies. Almost all ANA supply sections have been involved in the receipt and issue of equipment and supplies for the three new Kandaks; with limited ETT direction.

Doll ended our interview with a smile and said, "We still have much work to do with the ANA in order for them to be completely independent of U.S. assistance (like logistics planning) however, I think progress is certainly self evident."

To the ANA Officers, NCOs, and Soldiers; we say thank you for your desire to learn, lead, and be victorious in the fight for freedom.

To Capt. Doll and Master Sgt. Dawkins: May retirement and the civilian world be kind to you and our extreme thanks for a job well done... May it lead to Victory.

Task Force 1/201 - Surge Operation in Wardak Province

Story and Photos By

Lt. Col. Judah Whitney

1st BDE 201st Corps

Deputy Team Chief / S3 Mentor

WARDAK PROVINCE, Afghanistan - In late August of 2007, Task Force 1st Brigade, 201st Corps (TF 1/201) was formed in order to disrupt known insurgent cells operating in Wardak Province, Afghanistan.

Initially planned for approximately one week, TF 1/201 remained committed to achieving the Corps Commander's desired effects and instead of rigidly adhering to an arbitrary timeline, remained in zone for over two months.

The Wardak surge operation demonstrated the patience needed by leaders of successful counterinsurgency (COIN) operations. The mission was distinguished by the autonomous operations of a task force composed of elements of the 201st Corps and exemplified the ability of elements of the Afghan National Army (ANA) to operate without direct coalition force support.

Task Force 1/201 was composed of a forward command post of HQ/1/201, the 1st Brigade's 1st Kandak and combat support and combat service support elements from 2nd and 3rd brigades of the 201st Corps.

The security situation in Wardak had been degrading in recent months, allegedly because of an influx of insurgents flow-



A firing position protects Forward Operating Base Airborne in Wardak Province.

ing into the province from southern provinces. FOB Airborne, the only outpost in Wardak province, became the central staging area for the Task Force as it built combat power in preparation for the beginning of operations.

The Corps Commander directed the Task Force to conduct COIN Operations targeting Chak, Nerhk, Jalrez and Sayedabad districts. All of these districts had become synonymous with some sort of insurgent activity, and it was a sure bet that the task force would be challenged once operations commenced.

The operation began when the 1st Kandak, 1st Brigade moved in force into the Chak valley in order to challenge enemy control over the main road and to disrupt insurgent activity in the area.

Soon after the task force's ini-

tial move, the brigade's command post and the 1st Kandak both came under fire. Neither attack by the enemy was successful. As the operation progressed, contact became more common and was directed at the ANA soldiers in the field as well as FOB Airborne.

With close cooperation between the National Directorate of Security and Afghan National Police, the Task Force quickly established good sources of information that led to a better understanding of the province. The 1st Brigade leadership and ETTs rapidly put together effective information sharing systems that almost immediately paid off as several significant actions led to the seizure of information that was shared amongst the task force and its partners.

Story Continued on Page 7



Lt. Col. Judah Whitney (right) points out issues to Sgt. Maj. Todd Walter at FOB Airborne, in Wardak Province.

Task Force 1/201 (Cont.)

As days turned to weeks and the operation wore on, soldiers and ETTs of TF 1/201 systematically moved through the targeted districts. The fruits of their labors included the termination of a major foreign insurgent planner and capturing his local guide, capturing a

local IED cell, killing an insurgent mortar team and killing and wounding more than 20 insurgents and capturing a large weapons cache in one major battle with no friendly losses.

Task Force 1/201's surge operation in Wardak province was by any measure a success and was demonstrative of the ANA's future and current abilities.

1st Brigade Returns to Kapisa

Story and Photo By

Lt. Col. George M. Schwartz

1st Brigade, 201st Corps

Senior Advisor

TAGAB, Afghanistan - Since May 2007, the 1st Brigade, 201st Afghan National Army Corps has been focused on counter-insurgency operations in the Eastern Zone Area of Operations (EAO), those four provinces commonly referred to as the N2KL: Nangahar, Nuristan, Kunar and Laghman.

Even though the brigade headquarters was deployed forward to Jalalabad, the 1st Bri-

gade was still responsible for operations in the Central Zone Area of Operations, with the 1st Kandak conducting security operations in Logar and Maydan Wardak Provinces.

Just days before the start of Eid, the three-day festival celebrating the end of Ramadan, the 201st Corps Commander instructed the 1st Brigade to conduct another mission: Relieve the 3rd Brigade unit in Kapisa Province and assume the counterinsurgency mission there.

The mission fell to the 1st Kandak which had remained in the Central Zone to conduct operations in Logar and Wardak. Although most of the Kandak was deployed for the large security operation in southern Wardak province, it was able to quickly transition from the field to occupying the outposts in

Kapisa in just four days. Although the very effective Wardak operation had ended abruptly, the 1st Kandak was able to complete a leaders recon and a short recovery before relieving the 3rd Kandak of the 3rd Brigade at Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) Nijrab and Tagab.

The 1st Brigade is no stranger to the province because elements of the brigade had spent over six months there until relieved by the 3rd Brigade in June. Many of the base improvements at FOB Nijrab were a result of the work of the Marine ETTs who were assigned to the 3rd Kandak which had spent the winter there. Much has also changed; however, starting with the new FOB in Tagab and a new Governor.

The relief of 3rd Brigade units was accomplished successfully, enabling those units to prepare for their next mission in the Eastern Zone Area of Operations, and the 1st Brigade is working with its coalition partners to get better established in the province, and carry on the great work started by the 3rd Brigade.



As the shadows get long, Maj. Gen. Shah, 1st Brigade Commander, addresses his troops at Forward Operating Base Tagab, in Kapisa Province.



2nd Lt. Michael Krause visits with a young boy in the village of Baabyal in the Korengal Valley on Oct. 9.



A village elder and the 201st Corps Engineer break ground on the new Sofi-Coat Bridge on Oct 2.

Brig. Gen. Wardak conducts the Transfer of Authority ceremony between 1st and 3rd Brigades at the Jalalabad headquarters on Nov. 4.



Marines at Camp Blackhorse/Aimal and across the world celebrated the 232nd Birthday of the Marine Corps on Nov. 10.



Afghan National Army Soldiers prepare meat for Eid, the celebration ending the month of Ramadan on Oct. 12.



A young boy receives a winter coat from an Afghan National Army officer during a humanitarian assistance visit to Panjsher Valley on Nov. 14.